

Urban District Council of Builth Wells.
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.
1940.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1940. In accordance with the wishes of the Welsh Board of Health, as expressed in Circular 2314 (Wales), this report must be considered to be an interim one and is confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

At the end of the war a report will be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. D. J. Jones, the first full time Medical Officer of Health to the district, terminated his appointment on December 31st, 1939, to take up similar duties elsewhere.

This created a vacancy which I had the honour of filling on March 1st, 1940.

Water Supplies.

Owing to the long continued spell of dry weather it became necessary to pump water into the reservoir on Brecon Road on August 22nd, 1940. Pumping operations were commenced from the Duhonw Brook near Dolinwydd, the water being conveyed by the Hongwm supply pipes. Tycapel reservoir being empty by the 28th, August, the engine was moved on this date to Cwmantgwyn and water was pumped from the springs into the Tycapel water supply main, which passes the water through the filters before discharging into the reservoir on Brecon Road. The water at these springs was found to be insufficient and as an experiment the valve at Pantllyn was partially opened on the 4th, September and the water allowed to flow down the dingle towards Cwmantgwyn. This had the effect of increasing the flow of water from the springs and by the 6th September more water was flowing than the pump could discharge into the main. On September 1st the "Bernard" pump started pumping water from the Newry springs into the Newry reservoir and this kept part of the town supplied with water, namely, from the junction of Brecon Road over Market St, Castle Road, Tanhouse Terrace, Oaklands, Castle St. and Llanelwoda.

Pumping operations at Cwmantgwyn were suspended on the 5th September and on the 10th pumping was also stopped at the Newry springs.

On October 19th the chlorination plant at the filter house was put into operation and has continued to work satisfactorily. The total cost of the above pumping was £174.12.4.

In view of the above shortage it is hoped that, before the next dry spell, arrangement can be made to tap as an emergency supply the water at Pantllyn.

Infectious Disease.

The only outbreak of any severity during the year was one of measles which commenced in December and continued into the following year. The following list shows the actual number of cases notified to me but I have reason to believe that the actual number of measles cases were more than those notified.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....1 case.
Pertussis.....1 case.
Measles.....17 cases.

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Builth Wells Urban District Council

All these cases of infectious disease were isolated at home and the measles cases were all of a mild type

The work throughout the year was largely routine in character and no exceptional administrative measure was undertaken or recommended by me during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T.C.R.GEORGE.

Medical Officer of Health.
